

Robin to Melbourne - February 2016

2/11/2016: Mike,

I talked to Suzanne and I am going to go down to Florida tomorrow evening. I will do what I can on Saturday and then into Sunday if needed, and then I head back up to Virginia on Monday. She's going to try and postpone her trip, but said that if it doesn't work out she would easily arrange for me to get into the house. I'll also get to visit with Mom and Jack while I'm down there. This should be good for me.

I have not talked to anyone else on the contact list, but will probably call his therapist tomorrow. The power to my house went out about half of an hour ago (!), so I am dealing with that for the moment. Isn't life just peachy?

2/12/2016: Robin: Attached is an updated Contact List, including the info for Bonnie and me. I included the info I got from Tom Betchel who called and spoke to Doug on 12 Jan. I did not add in your text message exchange of that evening, although I probably will, as well as my own 'last' messages.

Robin, I am really, really glad you contacted Suzanne and are going to Florida, and will have access to the house, even at this 'late date.' I think this is important for all of us. Thank you.

Why I am not on the P-Train: I met Doug incoming at the Sunport on 4 Dec 2015 (even though he was renting a vehicle and told me it wasn't necessary). I think Beth, Ron, Garrett showed up as well, which pleased and surprised me.

I was somewhat shocked at Doug's appearance: He had probably added some weight, but his face was puffy, cheeks were puffy.

The next morning, 5 Dec, we had him meet us at the Canyon Club for breakfast/brunch after he woke up and called me, probably around 10 am. [Mike, Bonnie, Patti and Dick Blide.] His hands were shaking, he could eat almost none of his breakfast, he had to know where the restroom was before he sat down and yes, he had to leave the table at least once during the meal to go to the restroom. He had been going through some dry heaves. I interpreted all this that he was trying to go 'cold turkey' in order to get in shape to fly to Denver [on Monday 7 Dec] and look for his mountain log cabin. Bonnie flat asked him if he were still drinking and he said "some."

We saw him perhaps surprisingly little during his visit. He did come over to Bonnie's house on Saturday 12 Dec (after he had returned from Denver on 9 Dec) for the 1 pm Army-Navy game (bringing his own six-pack), and that worked well. Patti and Dick were there, but not the Genonis, whom I think we were all expecting. (I think Tom's spinal stenosis was already putting him in great pain at that time). Doug told me later he did go over and see David and his family at their home on 14200 Nambe NE, which was probably on Sunday (13 Dec).

I have saved the voice mail from Doug where he called me on the morning he left (15 Dec), asking where he should leave the garage door opener, etc. He sounded like 'the old Doug' - sharp, coherent. I played it for Bonnie, saying "This is the way I like to remember Doug."

Since then, Patti has kept remembering, "his face was all fat. Why was his face so puffy?" or some such.

In an email I received from your mother yesterday, she said Doug was scheduled to spend some time with them and you over the holidays, and regretted that "Doug was not able to pull himself together."

Then, as I mentioned, Doug called on the evening of 24 Dec, Christmas Eve. I talked with him for over an hour, and it was slow and painful. If you differentiate between "Drunk Doug" and "Good Doug," this was Drunk Doug.

This is why I am not on the P-Train: Doug was out here for 11 days or so and was already in such bad shape physically in December: he may well have been attempting to go cold turkey from time to time on his own but to be losing in the battle of controlling his drinking. Your mother's statement echos what I witnessed; perhaps you already heard this from your Mom as to why she felt that Doug was not able to pull himself together for your visit.

And yes, I feel relief that Doug is not suffering now the way he seemed to be over the last three years.

- Mike